

National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Headquarters
Washington, DC 20546-0001



June 13, 2007

Reply to Attn of:

General Law Practice Group

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

SUBJECT: Blanket Determination Regarding Attendance by NASA Employees at the Space Transportation Association (STA) Luncheon, June 14, 2007

On June 14, 2007, the Space Transportation Association (STA) will host and sponsor a luncheon at Tortilla Coast in Washington, DC at 12:00 p.m. Members of the STA include Aerojet, ATK, Boeing, Lockheed Martin, and United Space Alliance. STA's focus is on ensuring reliable, cost-effective space launch services for NASA, DoD and the commercial market.

Representatives of the aerospace industry, trade associations, the media, congressional staffers, Congress, and other Federal agencies will attend the luncheon. Approximately 300 people have been invited to the luncheon and 30 are expected to attend. The estimated cost of the luncheon, which includes all food and beverages, is \$25.00 per person. I find that the STA event meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g).

I further determine that there is an Agency interest in having NASA personnel attend the event because it will further Agency programs or operations. Congressman Feeney will be the guest speaker. He will be speaking on Space Exploration. Attendance at the luncheon will allow NASA representatives to discuss the Vision for Space Exploration and NASA programs with the other attendees. Accordingly, NASA employees whose duties do not substantially affect STA or a majority of all of its members may accept an invitation for free attendance to the reception for themselves and their spouses or guests.

NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect STA or its members, such as by way of procurement duties, should seek an individual determination pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.205(g)(3)(i) regarding participation in this event from their local ethics counselor.


R. Andrew Falcon